



## Headteacher Update – 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**Dear Parents, Carers, Students, Family and Friends of Baines School,**

What an eventful fortnight it has been since my last Headteacher Update. Thank you so much for all your support and the positive messages I have seen on Facebook and received regarding how we are trying to keep school as close to 'normal' as possible, with some adaptations. By now, I am sure you will all be aware that we had a confirmed positive diagnosis on Covid-19 in the Year 11 year-group bubble last week. Thank you to everyone for your understanding when responding to the measures and advice we have to put in place in such circumstances. Both Lancashire and Blackpool are now locations that are operating greater restrictions because of the rise in Covid cases. As a school, we are doing our best to try to prevent students and staff from contracting the virus. Please talk to all members of your families about the requirements of the local restrictions so we can all work together to keep as many students as possible in school and being educated onsite. Please ensure that the students are not mixing with other households away from school, in the evenings and weekends. Please also talk to them about their 'Covid-safe behaviour'. Many students are still making physical contact with other students and not keeping their distance. If a positive case is identified, then we have to identify all those who have been in the government definition of 'close contact' and they will be required to self-isolate for fourteen days.

Students are required to wear face masks when transitioning between lessons, in corridors and in social spaces. The students have been fantastic. We have a few students who for medical reasons are exempt from wearing a face mask, those students have provided a note from their medical professional (GP or consultant) and they wear a special lanyard so everyone can see they are exempt. I have received a few parental requests and queries about the wearing of face masks. As we are in a local restriction area, the wearing of face masks is compulsory as per government guidance and the only exemptions are those with written medical evidence. As we have implemented this guidance for a week now, it is expected that all exemptions will have provided the medical evidence by now.

### **Working at Home**

If your child is required to self-isolate at home, then please ensure that your child is working on school work. As you can imagine, it is not possible for us to set individual personalised work for every student who is off school, as well as planning and teaching lessons in school. Teachers are uploading work to Class Charts and Google Classroom, often for a whole half term. This enables students who are self-isolating at different times to log in and work out where they are up to in their learning and then continue so that they can keep up with the curriculum. The work will not be exactly the same as those in school but the learning is designed to continue the content learning and skill development as well as re-visiting prior learning. For some subjects there will be work set using online platforms such as Mathswatch, Seneca Learning, GCSE Pod and BBC Bitesize as these hold fantastic resources for certain topics. Please ensure that your if your child has to stay at home, that they are continuing their learning. If they have any issues with passwords or IT technical problems, then please email for help at [ITHelpdesk@baines.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:ITHelpdesk@baines.lancs.sch.uk).

## Face Masks & Plastic Bags

I am so pleased with the positive response to the wearing of face masks. I now need to encourage the safe use of them. Mrs Doherty is creating a short video showing how to safely/hygienically put on and take off face masks. Students should have a zippable bag with them for storing their face mask hygienically in between the wearing of them. Please see the poster at the end of this update about the Do's and Don'ts of wearing Face Masks.

During lockdown, I was thrilled that we were successful in being awarded two grants to improve the fabric of our buildings. We now have scaffolding around the outside of the kitchen and refectory because we are having the roofing replaced in that area. The actual work on the roofing started today. This will not affect students at all, but they should not touch the scaffolding. During October half term we will start our second project, which is the replacement of many of the windows in B Block. The window project will take many months to complete as we will need to rota the rooms so that there is minimum impact on the curriculum and bubble base rooms. Over the last four years, there has been approximately £1 million pounds of investment into improving the buildings at Baines and we shall continue to invest and develop our school in the future.

I have been so proud that we have been able to offer a selection of hot and cold food in the three different locations at school. I know that our menu has been more limited than previously but we have had four hot choices and three sandwich fillings available every day. Last week we re-introduced using the biometric thumbs for payment. This week we will try to serve food without having to pre-order. This will allow Mr Noon to expand the menu. He has already ordered some samosa's for this week and he is pleased that the Meal Deal has been re-introduced today (we will trial and see if we can manage all of this within the guidelines and timeframes for lunch and break times).

We are also starting to introduce some extra-curricular clubs. Teachers will publicise these with students and we will send a list out with my next update. The ILC is open to year group bubbles on their allocated days, the PE department have also identified year group sessions after school, Mandarin and Chinese Culture club started as have some of the GCSE after school sessions such as further maths. Eco-Club starts this week and I am hoping that some year 9 students will help me to weed and restore the Baines Rose Garden on a Friday after school.

Finally, the weather is now changing and students will need to be outside to get fresh air. Please ensure that your child has a winter coat for those cold and wet days. We do not have restrictions regarding colour as long as they are sensible coats for the weather. The dark nights will be here after half term, so please consider having some reflective strips on outside coats.

## Stars of the Week



## Other Success

### Instrumental/Vocal Tuition at Baines School

Despite all of the challenges that we face at this moment in time, we are pleased to see the return of instrumental and vocal tuition at school. 50 students are now receiving weekly tuition on a variety of instruments (including the voice) and it is fantastic to hear music filling the corridors of M Block once again! We are extremely grateful to our wonderful team of peripatetic teachers who are teaching in new and unusual ways! If a student wishes to start tuition at school, the next start date is January 2021. For more information, please do email Mr. Shillitoe ([rsh@baines.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:rsh@baines.lancs.sch.uk)).



### Open Evening / Year 6 Tours

Unfortunately, we are not able to hold our usual Open Evening, or the smaller face to face year 6 tours that we had planned. I know that many families are disappointed with this and that they do not have the opportunity to visit our school, meet staff and students and to try out some of the things they usually would during the visits to Baines. During this week, we will be adding some videos to our website so that prospective parents/carers and children can learn about life at Baines School.

We are also going to host a live virtual event on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October between 6.00pm and 6.45pm where I will give an overview of our school.

Applications for secondary places are to be placed online, the closing date is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020. Please visit [www.LANCASHIRE.GOV.UK/SCHOOLS](http://www.LANCASHIRE.GOV.UK/SCHOOLS) to register and log your application.

At the end of this update are information posters, please do share this information widely with family and friends. We are looking forward to meeting our September 2021 Year 7.

## Baines School Virtual Open Evening



Mrs. A Chapman

We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting a Virtual Open Evening on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October from 6.00pm to 6.45pm.

We hope that you will be able to join Headteacher Mrs Chapman who will provide insightful information into our school, our values and ethos and what our school can offer to you and your child.

Mrs Chapman will present information on our curriculum, pastoral support and the many enrichment opportunities which are available to our students. .

If you are unable to attend this Virtual Open Evening we will be uploading a series of videos over the next week that you may view at <http://baines.lancs.sch.uk/open-evening/>



**Baines School**  
Nil Sine Labore

Headteacher Update



28<sup>th</sup> September 2020

# Year 7 Camp

We have been in touch with Kingswood regarding the Year 7 camp. At the moment there is some uncertainty if the camp will be allowed to run due to Covid-19 restrictions. For now, we will postpone any payments, but will keep you updated!



Thank you to everybody who contributed to this worthwhile charity. As a school we collected £375 with the form collecting the most being 7HGI collecting £26.

A prize is on its way to this form as a thank you!!!!

## Careers@Baines

Our careers advisor Mrs Harrison has already started the Year 11 Careers Interviews. During the interview Mrs Harrison advises the students on their CVs, looks at their college applications with them and gives them impartial careers advice to help the students with their aspirations.

Thank you to the response we have had from parents / carers wanting to get involved in our careers programme. If you would also like to be involved in our careers programme at Baines, please contact Mrs Doherty at [cdo@baines.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:cdo@baines.lancs.sch.uk).

We would be very grateful for any support. In particular we are looking for people who can speak to students regarding their own careers, for example a GP, vet, lawyer / solicitor etc.

## Theme of the Week

The Year 7 students have been looking at kindness in assembly to support the LORIC work that has been going on in form time. All year groups have also been looking at the impression they make with others. Lots of self-reflection this week!

## Safeguarding and wellbeing

Students in Year 7 have been learning about keeping themselves safe on line in their computing lessons.

We are part way through our tutorials, where students speak with a member of the pastoral team, to check they are ok returning to school and ease any worries they may have.

If you feel there is anything we need to know please do not hesitate to contact the school and ask to speak to either your child's form tutor, or a member of the pastoral or safeguarding team.

### **Year 10 and 11 Parent/Carer Information Evening - Wednesday 30th September 2020**

This year, these events will be held online and invites have been sent via email to all parents/carers of students in Years 10 and 11. The Year 10 event starts at 5.30pm, with the Year 11 event commencing at 6.30pm.

This is an opportunity for you to find out about what your child will experience in Year 10 and beyond in to Year 11. We will look at pastoral support, school-based learning, remote learning, parental support and key dates and events that are planned for the year. We will also discuss as far as is possible what could happen in terms of exams this year too.

There will be lots of "top tips" from Mr Mycock who is very experienced in working with, and getting the best out of, our older students and many participants have found these sessions very helpful previously.

## **Year 7 Meet the Tutor Event - Thursday 8th October 2020**

This event will be our first online evening where parents/carers will meet with individual teachers. Further information and guidance will be shared prior to the event regarding how parents/carers can make appointments to meet their child's new Progress Tutor. This is an opportunity to discuss how Year 7 pupils have settled in to school from a pastoral perspective; events later in the year will focus upon academic progress.



At Baines School we operate an online payment system for trips, catering and almost every other item in school that you would normally pay for with cash or cheque.

ParentPay is used to allow parents/carers to pay for things online and remove the need for cash in school. It offers parents/carers the ability to monitor what your child is eating as well as being able to easily see any trips or other payment items available to your child.

Below you will be able to see guides on how to use ParentPay as well some extra information.

### **Limits**

Parents are reminded to check their children's meals and spending, if parents are concerned with the amount their child is spending then limits can be placed on their account. Limits can be set at a daily spend limit or can be broken down by meal times e.g. £4 a day or £1 at break and £3 at lunch. Please let us know if you wish for limits to be put in place. Please also make sure your child is aware of the limits as the till system will stop them from purchasing items after they hit the limit. The catering staff will put main meal items through first before any drinks or desserts. Drinks may be removed from students that are in debt and have attempted to purchase them.

### **Free School Meals**

If your child has free school meals, they will be allocated £2.50 per day. This allowance will only be available to them for use at lunch and any remaining allowance will be cleared from their account each day (this means the allowance isn't carried over into the next day). If your child wishes to buy anything at any other time e.g. drinks at break, then you will need to make sure you have an active ParentPay account and you add money to their lunches (guides available).

### **Pin Numbers & Thumb measurement**

We use fingerprint scanning to allow students to purchase items from the refectory as well as a balance checker mounted on the wall at the bottom of the stairs by the exit of B block. The use of fingerprint scanning is the safest and quickest way for students to pay or check their balance, all students are encouraged to have their fingerprint registered and to use it. For the small number of students who do

not wish to have their fingerprint used, they can be issued with a 4-digit pin number. The pin number can be typed into the balance checker and told to the member of staff on the tills in order to pay for food. Students are reminded that pin numbers should not be shared between students.

### **Parking – dropping off and picking up**

To keep our school safe before and after school, please do not drive into the main school reception yard between 8.20 and 8.40am and again between 2.40 and 3.00pm. We have a few students with medical conditions and those parents/carers are permitted to drive into the main reception area, these tend to arrive prior to the times listed.

A further request to be mindful of the houses around school and also the double yellow lines. I know that more parents/carers are transporting children at the moment but we are concerned at the safety risk that this poses with cars parked on the double yellow lines, cars trying to enter the school site and also blocking the drives of local residents. There have been a few occasions where parents/carers have been rude and upset local residents recently when they have asked them to move their vehicle. I have contacted our Community Police Officer and Councillor to request support in this matter.

### **IT Update**

There is now a new email address to contact IT if you have any issues with logging into Google Classroom or accessing work remotely.

The email address is [ITHelpdesk@baines.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:ITHelpdesk@baines.lancs.sch.uk).

### **Literacy update**

Many of our public libraries, along with our own ILC, are now open again and operating under Covid safe restrictions. In the ILC we have an allocated time for each year group so that they can explore our shelves in their own bubble groups. As Autumn is upon us and the long winter nights draw in, what better way to pass the time than to snuggle up with a book?

There are so many benefits proven to come from reading; both from a literacy perspective but also from a well-being point of view with no 'blue light' or distractions our brains can switch off and we can drift away in a book. Our students should be reading for pleasure for around 20 minutes a day - this can be either fiction or non-fiction, whatever will interest them the most. If students would like any help choosing a book they might like they can speak to Miss Downey or Mrs Streetly for advice.

### **GCSEPod**

GCSEPod is our online revision tool that uses short 3-5 minute video clips to support students with revision. This is aimed primarily at Years 10 and 11 and Mr Mycock is leading a series of assemblies to help students to get the most out of the package. He will also be launching the package to Year 9 too.

GCSEPod has been relaunched this year and they have redesigned many elements of the website to be more useful for students. There is now a "Check and Challenge" feature where students can test themselves on key information. The system then creates a "Boost Playlist" to plug gaps in knowledge. Students can create playlists of their favourite pods and there are lots of "Learning Activities" so that revision uses different strategies, rather than becoming monotonous.

Mr Mycock will be showing parents how best to use the features of GCSEPod in his Year 10 and 11 Parent/Carer Information Evenings too!





# ILC

Baines School  
Nil Sine Labore



Before School, break, lunch time and after School

**Monday— Year 7**

**Tuesday—Year 7 & 8**

**Wednesday—Year 10 & 11**

**Thursday—Year 9**

**Friday— Year 8**

Whilst using the ILC please remember to:

- Clean hands before entry
- Keep 2 metres from Staff at all times
- Clean all your work area after use, including all equipment used, using the cleaning products provided.



Thank you to everyone who has been clicking on our School Angel link on our website before purchasing online. It is an easy way to raise money for the school without it costing you anything. As it nears Christmas, it would be wonderful if you could remember to click our link before buying your gifts online. Any online purchases

you make through the link on the Baines website will earn the school a small percentage of the money you spend. This does not cost you any additional money but the companies make a charitable contribution to our school.

<https://www.schoolangel.org.uk/baines-school.html>

### **Forthcoming Events:**

30<sup>th</sup> September-Year 10 and 11 Online Information Evening (By appointment only)

8<sup>th</sup> October-Year 7 Meet the Tutor Online Event

15<sup>th</sup> October-Re-start a Heart for Years 7&10 (TBC potentially Virtual)

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October Virtual Open Evening 6.00pm – 6.45pm

**Half Term School Holidays-School closes on: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2.50 pm**

**School Re-opens on: 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

Nil Sine Labore

Alison Chapman, Headteacher

## Did you know?

Research shows that reading for pleasure has the most impact on the frequency at which young people read, their educational achievement and their personal development.



Renaissance Learning's report for 2018 showed that in primary school, children are generally reading books that are of a level exceeding their age and ability. Unfortunately, this changes at secondary school; children in Year 7 generally read books which are levelled at a year below their age and this gap either plateaus or continues to widen throughout the remainder of their time at secondary school.

Research has shown that as they grow older, children find reading less enjoyable and they also read less frequently. We also know from research that, in general, boys enjoy reading less than girls.

## What can you do?



### 3 things to do if your child is at Key Stage 3:

Encourage your child to find texts they enjoy; choice and interest in reading is key. Spend some time at the library or a local book store and ask someone who works there to give suggestions based on your child's interests, films or books they've enjoyed or any new and popular books other children have enjoyed. Some research has shown that children who have books of their own enjoy reading more, but it is often worth ensuring that they're confident they'll enjoy the authors/texts they are choosing before investing!

Encourage your child to read for 15-30 minutes every day. This doesn't have to be novels - it could be short stories or even non-fiction. If your child is willing, sit with them and read together so that you can discuss and tease out some of the issues that crop up.

If your child has shown an interest in a recent issue in the news, or a particular topic at school, look into non-fiction articles or books related to it and help them see how they can follow their own interests and develop their knowledge of different areas they find engaging.

### 3 things to do if your child is at Key Stage 4:

By this age, young people can sometimes be harder to inspire in areas like reading. It can sometimes be worth

having a discussion about what your child dislikes, or finds difficult, about reading; be open-minded about their views and try to discuss ways around these together. It's fine to have dislikes, but what might they enjoy reading? Where could they make a start?

Encourage your child to find texts they enjoy; choice and interest in reading is key. This doesn't have to be fiction, it could be non-fiction extracts or whole texts too. You may find text ideas together, from your child's own selection or seek advice from their teachers at school. Due to the nature of GCSE English Language, you may find that your child's school library or English department have banks of fiction and non-fiction extracts for them to explore. This can help them, and you, to get a feel for what may interest them before widening your search to whole texts.

Consider, with your child, what subjects or topics they are particularly enjoying and seek out fiction and/or non-fiction linked to those. For example, some young people who like science enjoy biographies of well-known scientists from across the ages, those interested in history have a whole wealth of fiction and non-fiction available to them in their chosen areas of interest and those who enjoy maths may find books about topics like Alan Turing's Enigma machine of interest.

e: [enquiries@pixl.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@pixl.org.uk) [www.pixl.org.uk](http://www.pixl.org.uk)

better future - brighter hope

# Facemask Do's and Don'ts

For Healthcare Personnel

## When putting on a facemask

Clean your hands and put on your facemask so it fully covers your mouth and nose.



DO secure the elastic bands around your ears.



DO secure the ties at the middle of your head and the base of your head.

## When wearing a facemask, don't do the following:



DON'T wear your facemask under your nose or mouth.



DON'T allow a strap to hang down. DON'T cross the straps.



DON'T touch or adjust your facemask without cleaning your hands before and after.



DON'T wear your facemask on your head.



DON'T wear your facemask around your neck.



DON'T wear your facemask around your arm.

## When removing a facemask

Clean your hands and remove your facemask touching only the straps or ties.



DO leave the patient care area, then clean your hands with alcohol-based hand sanitizer or soap and water.



DO remove your facemask touching ONLY the straps or ties, throw it away\*, and clean your hands again.

\*If implementing limited-reuse: Facemasks should be carefully folded so that the outer surface is held inward and against itself to reduce contact with the outer surface during storage. Folded facemasks can be stored between uses in a clean, sealable paper bag or breathable container.



CS 3164834 June 2, 2020 11:50 AM

Additional information is available about how to safely put on and remove personal protective equipment, including facemasks:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/using-ppe.html>.

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)



# SCHOOL ADMISSIONS SECONDARY

NORTH

Do you have a child starting secondary school  
in September 2021 and living in Lancashire?

## APPLY NOW!

**WWW.LANCASHIRE.GOV.UK/SCHOOLS**  
or give us a call on 01524 581148

**CLOSING DATE: 31 OCTOBER 2020**

You must apply even if an older brother or sister is already at the school.

### HAVE YOUR SAY

Between 1 October and 31 January schools are consulting with you to make sure admission arrangements meet future needs. To find out more please visit [www.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk) and search 'School Admission Policies'.

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools)

